

CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORTS

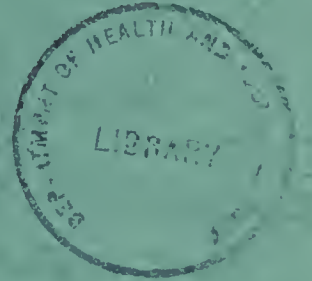
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1969





C I T Y   A N D   C O U N T Y   O F   L I C H F I E L D

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Public Health Inspector

J. Fineron, D.P.A., F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

Pupil Public Health Inspector

T. J. Stanley  
(Resigned July, 1969)

Clerk

Mrs. G. A. Miller



CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1969

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,  
City and County of Lichfield.

It is again my pleasant duty to present my annual report on certain aspects of the health of the community and on the work of the Health Department of the Council during the year.

Although he did not become Chief Public Health Inspector until after the conclusion of the year being reported on, I am on this occasion indebted to Mr. Thompson for the part of the report previously prepared by Mr. Fineron, who retired, after a lengthy period of valuable service, in the early part of this present year.

I again place on record my thanks to Members and other Officers of the Council for their continued co-operation, with a special word of thanks to those Officers who have contributed to this report.

C. E. JAMISON

Medical Officer of Health

Guildhall,  
July, 1970.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Particulars of area in acres, estimated mid-year population, number of inhabited houses, total rateable value of district and the product of a penny rate are set out below :-

Area (in acres) ... ..	3,597
Population (as estimated by Registrar General).	22,930
Number of Inhabited Houses ... ..	6,974
Total Rateable Value of Property ...	£898,307
Product of a Penny Rate ... ..	£3,500

These figures show, in general, the same types of increase as has been evident in recent years, arising out of the very considerable expansion of housing, largely by private development.

## VITAL STATISTICS

The principal statistics, as provided by the Registrar General, are set out below in the same form as in previous years :-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	219	218	437
Illegitimate	9	13	22
Totals	228	231	459

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population = 20.0

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	8	10
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Totals	3	9	12

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births = 25

<u>Deaths of Infants Under One Week</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	2	2
Totals	2	3	5

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births = 11  
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Births = 36

<u>Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	2	4	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births = 13

<u>Deaths of Infants Under One Year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	2	4	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births = 13

<u>Deaths (All Ages)</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Totals</u>
	106	113	219

Death Rate (All Ages) per 1,000 Population = 9.6

Last year I was able to record that no stillbirth had occurred in an illegitimate foetus and that no death had occurred in an illegitimate infant. This year, as will be seen, the figures are not so good, as two deaths occurred in each of these groups. In view of previous figures, and small sample, fortunately, covered by the present figures, I do not think that any significant conclusions can be drawn from the figures for the present year.

The percentage of all births, live and still, which were illegitimate is set out in the following table, together with corresponding figures for the previous ten years :-

Year	Percentage of Illegitimate Live Births & Stillbirths	Year	Percentage of Illegitimate Live Births & Stillbirths
1959	4.2	1964	3.6
1960	3.6	1965	4.8
1961	5.6	1966	4.8
1962	4.6	1967	5.2
1963	3.2	1968	4.0
		1969	5.1

Although the figures are less satisfactory than those for most other recent years, it may be noted that, whereas in Lichfield the illegitimate live births constituted 5% of all live births, in the country as a whole, in 1969, they constituted 8% of the total.



The following table shows how the vital statistics, as a whole, compare with those of earlier years :-

Year	Estimated Population	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
1957	11,190	20.1	26.0	26.7	26.7	11.6
1958	11,510	21.4	39.0	12.2	24.4	12.4
1959	12,180	17.6	13.7	9.3	18.6	12.7
1960	12,840	22.0	20.8	10.6	24.8	14.2
1961	14,240	21.8	40.2	12.9	12.9	12.6
1962	15,350	20.0	19.2	12.0	19.5	9.5
1963	16,490	24.4	17.1	10.0	12.4	10.4
1964	18,130	24.4	15.5	11.3	27.1	9.9
1965	20,030	26.6	9.3	3.8	9.4	10.2
1966	21,130	24.6	22.5	9.6	21.1	10.1
1967	22,100	23.9	15.0	7.6	11.0	7.8
1968	22,680	24.1	9.1	11.0	14.6	9.6
1969	22,930	20.0	25.0	13.0	13.0	9.6

It will be noted that the birth rate is markedly lower than in any year since 1962, and considerably below the average of the last decade. As the previous year showed no significant variation from other recent years, it is much too soon to speculate as to whether the figures for 1969 show the beginning of a new trend.

The stillbirth figures are much higher than those for other recent years, but I feel that, as the figures for the previous year were very satisfactory indeed, the present relatively unsatisfactory ones are most likely to be due to chance variation, typical of a very small population.

The same may be said in relation to the neonatal and infant death rates, which are, on this occasion, identical, one being above the corresponding figure for other recent years, while the other was satisfactorily below the corresponding figure.

The death rate of all ages which, owing to the larger figure involved, is more significant than the other figures just referred to, was satisfactorily low.

After adjusting the local figures for births and deaths, in accordance with the appropriate area comparability factors, as provided by the Registrar General, to take account of variations of age and sex in Lichfield as compared with England and Wales as a whole, the following table shows the comparison between the local and national figures :-

Area	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Early Neonatal Death Rate	Perinatal Death Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
Lichfield City	18.0	25.0	11.0	36.0	13.0	13.0	9.7
England and Wales	16.3	13.0	10.0	23.0	12.0	18.0	11.9

It will be seen that the local figures, adjusted where appropriate, do not, when compared with the national ones, show a consistent pattern. The birth rate, although reduced, is still well above the national average. As already noted, the stillbirth rate was, on this occasion, quite high. In view of remarks in an earlier paragraph on this fact, no further comment is made here. The high stillbirth rate for 1969 is reflected in the high perinatal death rate, which relates to stillbirths and deaths under one week, combined, per 1,000 live and still births, even though the early neonatal death rate was only moderately above the national average. The neonatal death rate was also somewhat above the national average but, owing to no further deaths occurring between four weeks and one year, the infant death rate was very well below the national figure. The death rate at all ages was, even after adjustment, markedly below the national figure.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows the causes of death of persons, ordinarily resident in Lichfield, who died during the year, regardless of the place of death, headings being omitted where no death was attributed to the group of diseases in question :-

Disease	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	1969		
	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	M	F	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other Infective & Parasitic Disease	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	2	-	3	4	3	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus	8	10	8	5	8	11	-	11
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	3	7	7	7	3	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	5	1	-	-	1	-	1	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	10	20	17	16			
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	1	4	1	1	1	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	31	36	27	22	24	11	19	30
Coronary Disease, Angina	27	25	40	23	40	25	14	39



Disease	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	1969		
	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	M	F	Total
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	3	3	2	3	3	1	4
Other Heart Disease	10	27	21	17	17	2	3	5
Other Circulatory Disease	10	27	21	17	17	11	19	30
Influenza	—	—	4	—	2	1	2	3
Pneumonia	6	6	9	9	10	5	6	11
Bronchitis	9	7	9	7	12	8	1	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	4	1	3	11	3	3	6
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Congenital Malformations	4	3	3	—	—	1	1	2
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	32	29	22	27	21	9	26	35
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	3	3	8	7	4	1	5
Suicide	—	3	1	2	—	3	—	3
All Diseases	180	205	213	172	199	102	101	203

Five of these deaths, as already recorded, occurred before the end of the first week, one further death between one week and four weeks, but no deaths occurred between four weeks and one year. Three further deaths occurred at ages between one year and five years, two more between five and 15 years of age, one between 15 and 25 years, two between 25 and 35, ten between 35 and 45 years, eleven between 45 and 55 years, 31 between 55 and 65 years, 53 between 55 and 65 years and the remaining 100 at ages over 75 years.

Deaths did not show any differential sex incidence at ages up to 45 years, but deaths between that age and 75 years showed a massive preponderance of males, while the 100 deaths at ages over 75 years included no fewer than 72 women. This shows even more markedly than usual the tendency, which has been very obvious in recent years, for women to outlive men by many years. This contrasts curiously with administrative arrangements, whereby women reach pensionable age earlier than men. On the other hand, social problems in arranging for the care of the elderly, ever becoming a larger part of the total community, would probably be even greater if males, less adept in household skills, predominated in older age groups.

As recorded in the statistics in an earlier paragraph, no fewer than five of the six infant deaths occurred before the end of the first week of life. The sixth occurred at the age of 10 days. Of these deaths, one was related to a congenital abnormality, one to difficulties occurring in labour and the remaining deaths to prematurity. This shows an intensification of the trend in recent years

for almost all infant deaths to occur in the early neonatal period and to be related almost entirely to congenital abnormality or prematurity, conditions caused by factors which are still far from fully understood.

All three deaths occurring at between one year and five years of age were due to traffic accidents, showing the very large part now played by this factor in childhood mortality.

One death in later childhood was attributed to the same cause, while the remaining death in this age group was due to a form of cancer affecting children.

Rather unexpectedly, the one death occurring in the age group between 15 years and 25 years was attributable to a congenital abnormality, illustrating that, in some cases, the effects of such abnormalities can be increasingly serious, even when the person affected enters the period of adolescence.

The number of deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus was, unfortunately, a record, exceeding the previous highest figure, in 1965, by one. All the 11 deaths occurred in males, again showing, in an extreme degree, the preponderance of the disease in males. Seven of the deaths occurred at between 55 years and 65 years, but one death occurred in a man of 43 years. It is noteworthy that the total of 11 deaths from this type of cancer compares with figures of two deaths from cancer of the breast and one from cancer of the womb in women. In view of the public attention given to prevention of the latter type of cancer, it is indeed interesting to note that the incidence of cancer of the lung and bronchus is nearly four times that of the other two put together. As the major factor in incidence, cigarette smoking, is only too well known, and eminently preventable, it does make one wonder about our priorities, as a community, in the preservation of health.

Cancers, as a whole, accounted for 38 deaths, mostly at ages in excess of 55 years, while diseases of the heart and circulatory system added another 87 deaths, making a total of 113 deaths out of a total of 219 deaths, showing the major part which these two types of disease now play in the incidence of fatal disease.

The one death from diabetis mellitus occurred in a person of over 75 years of age, and was not, therefore, a very significant one.

The incidence of death from influenza was not unduly high, although one of the three deaths did occur at under 45 years of age.

Deaths from pneumonia were rather more numerous than in any other recent year, but 10 of the 11 deaths occurred at ages over 65 years. There was no significant difference in incidence between the sexes.

In bronchitis the position was very different, eight of the nine deaths occurring in men. All nine deaths, however, occurred at ages over 65 years. The difference in incidence in the two sexes is, of course, attributable to the effects of the smoking habit, continued over many years, in men.

As indicated in earlier paragraphs, four of the five deaths resulting from motor vehicle accidents occurred in children under fifteen years of age, three of



these being in young children under five years of age. The remaining death occurred in a young man. The total is, fortunately, markedly lower than in either of the preceeding two years.

Deaths from suicide were all in men, two being in middle age and one elderly, and were more numerous than in any other recent year.

On the negative side, it is pleasant to be able to record that no deaths in women were attributable either to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion, reflecting well on local health services. It is also a very satisfactory feature of the figures that no deaths resulted from accidents other than those involving motor vehicles. It is to be hoped that the absence of deaths from accidents of this type may indicate an increased awareness of the dangers of accidents in the home and in the workplace, and of the need to guard against such accidents.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases recorded during the year, together with figures of notifications of these diseases during the preceeding ten years :-

Diseases	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Measles	209	194	320	3	425	315	70	137	388	413	8
Whooping Cough	1	34	-	-	19	16	-	3	6	4	-
Scarlet Fever	7	2	1	2	8	7	10	7	6	5	5
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	1	22	-	5	7	44	24	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	1	1	13	-	2	3	7	7	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	6	1	2	2	-	-	8	6	1	-
Tuberculosis			3	1	2	1	2	4	4	2	1



As will be seen, the number of cases of measles notified was small, but I attribute the smallness of the figure to the heavy incidence of the disease in the preceding year, rather than to any effects of measles vaccination, which had only been undertaken to a very limited extent prior to 1969.

The absence of notified cases of whooping cough was very satisfactory, and can reasonably be attributed to vaccination against the disease.

The incidence of scarlet fever was satisfactorily low, as in all other recent years. In commenting on this favourable position, one is rather inhibited by the knowledge that the figure for the present year will certainly be less satisfactory. In general, however, it is fair to say that the disease appears to be satisfactorily controlled by treatment of the affected patients, usually children, in the home. This is in marked contrast to earlier years, when prolonged treatment in hospital was considered necessary, to limit the spread of the disease.

It is my pleasant duty to be able to record a further year without a single notification of poliomyelitis, ample repayment to all concerned for the immense amount of work devoted to vaccinations against this disease, so much feared in earlier years.

The absence of notified cases of either dysentery or food poisoning is very satisfactory, particularly in these times, when so many people are travelling to countries where food hygiene is less satisfactory than it is in this country. Quite a number of contacts of this type of disease were investigated during and following the holiday season. Although a few temporary carriers of infection were found, no such person was diagnosed as suffering from this type of disease.

Only one case of tuberculosis infection was notified during the year. This notification was of the pulmonary type, occurring in a middle-aged man. No death was attributed to tuberculosis during the year.

The following table shows how this picture compares with that shown in earlier years :-

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1947	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	-
1948	6	7	2	-	2	3	-	-
1949	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	-
1950	1	3	3	1	-	-	-	-
1951	1	3	3	1	-	1	1	-
1952	5	1	-	4	2	1	-	-

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1953	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	—
1954	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	1
1955	3	4	1	—	—	—	1	—
1956	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1957	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1958	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1959	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1960	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	—
1961	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
1962	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
1963	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
1964	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1965	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1966	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
1967	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
1968	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
1969	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

It will be seen that the figures compare very favourably indeed with those for all previous years except 1957 and 1964, and they equal those for the two years mentioned.

Arrangements for diagnosis, treatment, follow-up of contacts and supervision continued as in previous years, and appear to work very satisfactorily.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Hospital facilities for patients suffering from infectious diseases appeared to be quite adequate for the relatively small number of patients needing to be admitted to hospital.

Accommodation for maternity patients was adequate to meet the needs of all groups with a priority on either medical or mental grounds for admission, but was not sufficient to meet the requirements of all patients in the non-priority groups.

The shortage of beds for the elderly chronic sick continued, but in a rather less extreme form. Supervision of admission arrangements by a geriatric consultant and some variation in geographical zoning of hospital admissions led to a reduction in the waiting list for St. Michael's Hospital, with resulting benefit to individual patients on the waiting list for that hospital.



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

It was again possible to avoid the use, during the year, of compulsory powers to remove any persons from their homes for treatment in hospital or other institution.

### VENEREAL DISEASE

Facilities remained as outlined in earlier reports.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

The facilities available at the County Chemical and Public Health Laboratories also continued unchanged but entirely satisfactory. Weekend facilities at the latter laboratory for reception of specimens and for report on specimens sent in prior to the weekend continued to be a particularly valuable feature of the arrangements, which was much appreciated.

### WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Taylor, Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, has supplied me with the following report on water supply to Lichfield during the year :-

"The supply to the City of Lichfield has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations but this is largely precautionary. In cases of possible contamination following burst or damaged pipes, emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination of the affected fittings or structure is carried out and special apparatus and staff are available for the purpose. New mains are not brought into use until the water has been examined and found satisfactory.

There are no houses supplied by means of standpipes in the area.

Regular monthly samples are examined from 176, Beacon Street, Dam Street Cottage and the Reducing Valve in St. John Street. The naturally occurring fluoride content at Beacon Street was 0.18 p.p.m.. at Dam Street Cottage 0.16 p.p.m. and at the Reducing Valve 0.14 p.p.m.

The water supply to the area is derived from Sandfields, Seedy Mill and Trent Valley Pumping Stations. Regular and frequent samples are examined from the pumping stations both bacteriologically and chemically.



During 1969, 774 out of 775 samples of the treated waters going into supply were free from coliform bacteria.

147 out of 150 samples of raw water from Trent Valley Pumping Station were free from coliform bacteria.

Analyses of the monthly samples referred to above revealed that, during 1969, 12 samples from Beacon Street, 13 from Dam Street Cottage and 12 from the Reducing Valve were all free from coliform bacteria.

The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, all 37 tap samples being free from any appreciable quantity of lead. "

It is again obvious that the available water is deficient in natural fluoride, falling far short of the optimum figure of one part per million. Once again, I can only report complete lack of progress in plans to remedy the deficiency, due to opposition on the part of a very small number of local authorities in the area covered by the water supplier. In spite of previous hopes, there is no evidence, as yet, of any positive move to require, by law, the bringing of the natural fluoride up to an adequate level.

#### FOOD

Although no cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, many complaints were received from members of the public regarding the fitness for consumption of individual items of food purchased in Lichfield. Further information regarding these will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of this report. It is not suggested that the quality of food supplied has deteriorated. It appears more probable that the increasing number of complaints received in recent years is mainly due, as mentioned in last year's report, to the fact that the public, as a whole, are becoming much more conscious than previously of the desirability of investigating those cases, very small indeed in relation to total sales, in which legitimate complaint can be made against an individual item of food sold.

The County Medical Officer has again been kind enough to supply me with particulars of results of samples procured in Lichfield by the Sampling Officer of Staffordshire County Council. These results show that, of 67 samples of a large variety of foods and drinks, five were found not to conform to legal standards laid down. These included samples of minced steak, fish fingers, ground nutmeg and two of margarine alleged to contain butter. All deficient foods were withdrawn from sale, but the circumstances were not deemed to warrant prosecution in any of these cases.

As regards samples of milk, results of examinations were rather better than in 1968, only one sample of milk out of 66 failing the test for cleanliness as against 12 samples out of 198 in 1968, while no sample in 1969 failed the respective tests for satisfactory pasteurisation or sterilisation.

## HOUSING

I am informed by the Housing Manager that the position in relation to rehousing and the waiting list for council houses in 1969 was as follows :-

Waiting List (Excluding Overspill) at 1st January	...	368
Rehoused from Unfit Houses During 1969	... ..	31
Rehoused on General Needs During 1969	... ..	150
Rehoused under Overspill Arrangement in 1969	... ..	104
Waiting List (Excluding Overspill) at 31st December	...	485

The picture shown is broadly similar to that of the previous year, at least so far as rehousing are concerned, the figure of 31 rehousing from unfit houses comparing with a one of 33 in 1968, the figure of 150 rehousing on general need with one of 158 in 1968 and overspill rehousing, at 104, with the 1968 figure can, I feel, be regarded as reasonably satisfactory. It is, of course, unfortunate that the waiting list for council dwellings increased substantially during the year, and was, at the end of the year, back to the figure at the beginning of 1968.

Further statutory action was again limited during the year by the necessity to undertake rehousing of occupants of houses in respect of which statutory action had been taken in earlier years. Nevertheless, undertakings not to allow unfit houses to be re-occupied were received in nine instances and closing orders imposed in relation to two houses.

Advice was again given, on appropriate occasions, in relation to priority for rehousing, on medical grounds, in order to secure rehousing in cases where there were really satisfactory reasons for believing that this would be conducive to better health.

I am indebted to the City Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. D. E. Lawrance, for the report on the following matters :-

### Public Conveniences

These have functioned satisfactorily throughout the year with normal repairs and redecoration being carried out. Vandalism has occurred on about the same level as previous years, but every effort has been made to rectify such damage as expeditiously as possible. The need for a new central public convenience to replace the existing smaller ones has received consideration by the Committee.

### Refuse Disposal

During the year a new Incinerator, operated as a joint venture with the Lichfield Rural District Council, has come into use and the refuse collection has been re-organised to allow for the additional time required for the increased haulage distance. The tip at Dimbles Lane has been closed. The



amount of bulk items has increased substantially, and a baling plant for cardboard and paper has been brought into full use at the Vulcan Road Depot. Problems arose in connection with the move to Burntwood because of the increasing amount of refuse, but these were satisfactorily resolved.

#### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Sewage Disposal Works Extension has proceeded satisfactorily and is due to be brought into use in the very near future. Considerable problems in dealing with the increasing amount of sludge have had to be faced, and disposal to farms and lagoons has been effected. The usual problems arising from the maintenance of the old sewerage system have been tackled as they arose.





ANNUAL REPORT  
on the  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

It is my privilege to present the annual report on behalf of Mr. J. Fineron, Public Health Inspector, on the work during the year 1969. This year was the last full year of office by Mr. Fineron who retired on the 31st January, 1970, after completing 37 years of service for the City Council. During his long and dedicated service he did much to improve the public health, housing and hygiene standards in the City.

The Pupil Public Health Inspector, Mr. T. Stanley, who completed his four years training resigned in August 1969 to work for the Lichfield Rural District Council and subsequently qualified as a public health inspector.

Two Acts received Royal Assent during the year. The Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act gives new powers to deal with intermittent nuisances which are likely to occur, thus removing a serious difficulty in dealing with certain nuisances. The most important legislative change was the Housing Act which contains welcome provisions to raise housing standards and conditions. Details of the housing changes are noted later in the report as are other matters of special interest.

I would like to express to the Council my appreciation for my appointment and for the support and consideration given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. In addition, my thanks are due to my colleagues for their help and indulgence and to the staff for their loyal service.

J. T. THOMPSON

Chief Public Health Inspector

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### (a) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Thirty two complaints were received and investigated during the year compared with 13 in 1968.

Fourteen of the complaints related to mould and in three cases legal proceedings were instituted under section 8 of the Food and Drugs Act. The level of complaints regarding mouldy foods is an indication of the failure to properly rotate stocks by many food distributors and retailers and also a lack of knowledge in some cases of the keeping quality of certain foods. The importance of the retailer using a coding system as an aid to proper stock rotation of perishable foods cannot be over emphasised, although many traders will not institute such systems until faced with the possibility of legal proceedings following a complaint.

The complaints related to:-

- Mouldy cheese
- Mouldy tinned spam
- Mouldy cornish pasties
- Mouldy sausage rolls (2 - legal proceedings in one case £10 fine  
£5.5s.0d. costs)
- Mouldy sliced loaf (4 - legal proceedings in two cases  
one case warranty defence acquitted  
second case £10.10s.0d. fine)
- Mouldy swiss roll
- Mouldy cream in chocolate roll
- Mouldy pork pie
- Mouldy yoghurt
- Discoloured pineapple
- Improperly cooked black pudding
- Foreign matter in sausage roll
- Roe in tinned salmon
- Snail in frozen peas
- Foreign body in bread (2)
- Rancid butter
- Insect in yoghurt
- Discoloured tinned sponge pudding
- Abnormal consistency of milk
- Discoloured sliced loaf
- Discoloured tinned corned beef



These complaints may be summarized as follows:-

Nature of complaint	Hone Produced	Imported
Mouldy food	14	—
Otherwise unfit or of poor quality	7	2
Foreign matter in food	7	2
Total 32	28	4

(b) Unsound food surrendered or condemned

During the course of routine food inspection duties the following food was found to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered for disposal. In four cases food taken before a Justice of the Peace was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

	Tons	Cwt.	lb.
Meat at retail shops		6	40
Cooked meat and meat products		1	1
Canned meats			59
Other canned foods		13	25½
Fish (fresh)		1	98
Other foods			110
Total	1	3	109½

The Imported Food Regulations 1968 provides for inspection of imported food to be deferred until it reaches an inland destination. The port health authority may elect to inspect or refer the responsibility to the receiving authority. This procedure enables the maximum benefit to be derived from containerisation without sacrificing public health control. One local factory regularly imports food consignments and occasional consignments are the subject of deferred inspection.

(c) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

1. The Principal Food Premises in the City

Restaurants and Cafes	23	Clubs, Canteens and	
Hotels	6	School Kitchens	37
Public Houses	28	Meat Shops	14
Fried Fish Shops	2	Fresh Fish Shops	2
Fruit and Vegetable Shops	14		

## 2. Routine Inspections

Regular and thorough inspections are made of food premises and, during 1969, 262 visits were made for this purpose. Where contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found they were notified to the occupier at the time of inspection and subsequently confirmed in writing. Whilst conditions are reasonably satisfactory in most catering establishments, concern is felt that a few occupiers are not able to maintain acceptable standards without constant supervision from this department. These premises demand an undue proportion of the inspector's time in the instruction of the fundamental principles of food handling, preparation, storage and hygiene.

To permit the uncontrolled opening of food businesses, often by persons with little knowledge of the food trade, continues to place the emphasis on remedying unsatisfactory conditions rather than preventing them. In addition, significant changes in the type of trade or in the volume of business in existing premises can render them unsuitable for continued use. It is to be hoped that the Department of Health and Social Security will withdraw its opposition to the prior approval of food premises and instead give appropriate powers to local authorities. The provisions of the Factories Act 1961 which provides for certificates of suitability for underground bakehouses which are renewed quinquennially, could provide a useful basis for legislative control of food premises prior to opening and subsequently to take into account changing circumstances and rising standards.

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Although a considerable number of new shops and businesses opened or changed hands during the year, only four new registrations were received. This emphasises the lack of knowledge by employers of their statutory obligation. This failure to comply with the notification of the fact of employment (section 49) and the conditions found upon inspection confirm that frequent and detailed inspections are essential to secure and maintain satisfactory standards in many of the offices, shops and other registerable premises within the district. All registered premises have now been inspected, and many have been inspected on two or more occasions.

Four accidents were notified during the year; two related to falls by employees in retail shops, a common and often avoidable source of injury, and two to injury sustained by falling objects. The low level of accident notification is probably misleading, since enquiries during inspections reveal that many employers are unaware of their obligations. It is not without significance that each of the accidents notified occurred in a store of a large multiple group which has a systematic notification procedure for accidents, although there is no evidence to suggest that this type of premises gives rise to more accidents than any other. It is noted that eighteen of the nineteen accidents notified in the City since the commencement of the Act in August 1964 have occurred on premises of multiple stores.



The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (Hoists and Lifts) Regulations 1968 which prescribes a detailed code of requirements to ensure adequate constructional safety for lifts, hoists and similar equipment came into force on the 28th May, 1969, and inspections to ensure compliance are proceeding.

The proper design of new offices and shops can ensure satisfactory working conditions. Examination of plans submitted reveals that often insufficient thought is given to staff welfare and alterations to proposals are often suggested.

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at the end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	1	73	17
Retail Shops	1	143	52
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	3	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	37	26
Fuel storage depots	-	7	-
Totals	4	263	95

#### FACTORIES

Particulars relating to inspections carried out under the Factories Act, 1961, are set out in the following table:-

#### Inspections

No. of Factories on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
78	17	-	-

## Outworkers

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers on list	No. of Defaults in sending list to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of Instances of work in unwholesome places	Notices Served
Wearing apparel	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Regular inspections are made to factories specifically for the enforcement of the provisions of the Factories Act, 1961, for which the local authority are responsible. Inspections are also carried out when visits are made to the premises for related matters, for example, enforcement of the Public Health Act, Petroleum (Regulation) Acts and Food Hygiene Regulations. Conditions are generally satisfactory.

## Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

During the year the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food sought information as to the current position relating to the enforcement of this Act. There are only 11 farmsteads in the district which are likely to be affected by the provisions of the Act, and of these only 4 regularly employ staff. On the other farms employees are only engaged on a seasonal basis. Following a special survey of these premises carried out in 1958, periodic inspections have been maintained and the facilities provided are considered to be adequate and reasonable standards are maintained.

## HOUSING

### Houses Demolished

Twenty-four houses which were unfit for human habitation were demolished during 1969. These included properties in Deans Croft and Rotten Row.

### Slum Clearance

Because of the number of unfit properties which have been dealt with and cleared over the years there now remain only about 130 houses in the City which require action under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957. It is anticipated that upon completion of the current programme in 1973/4 only a few individual unfit houses will remain to be dealt with.

### Houses in Multiple Occupation

A relatively small number of houses in two areas of the City are used fairly intensively as houses in multiple occupation. Whilst standards are reasonably satisfactory, the regular changes in tenancy and circumstances at the premises requires constant supervision to ensure that the Housing Acts are complied with.



## Housing Act, 1969

As mentioned in my foreword, the most important legislative change in 1969 was the Housing Act. Points worthwhile of mention include the power to require the repair of houses which, although not yet unfit, need attention to prevent them deteriorating into an unfit condition. The statutory standard of unfitness has been amended by the addition of a factor to take into account internal bad arrangement, for example, a steep winding narrow staircase, a bedroom only accessible through another bedroom or bathroom, a W.C. directly entered from a kitchen, etc. The definition of houses in multiple occupation has been re-defined and supplementary powers given to assist in controlling these premises.

The Act provides for a new system of rent control for dwellings in good repair and provided with standard amenities, designed to give the landlord and tenant a fair rent having regard to the condition of the property. Application may be made to the local authority for a qualification certificate to certify that the house is provided with various basic amenities and that it is in a good state of repair, or that upon completion of specified works that the standard would be satisfied. When a qualification certificate or provisional approval is given by the local authority the Rent Officer is able to determine the new rent. This procedure should encourage landlords to improve and repair their properties.

The provisions relating to improvement grants have been extensively altered. Improvement grants can now include grants for repair incidental to works of improvement which closely links with the powers under section 9 of the 1957 Housing Act relating to unfit houses and the new section 70 notices to require the repair of houses. The provisions of the 1964 Housing Act relating to the compulsory improvement of houses in designated improvement areas has been replaced by the new general improvement area procedure which, in addition to the improvement of individual houses, makes provision for environmental improvements to be made to the area.

The new grant structure offers considerable incentives to owners to improve their properties and thereby raise the living standards of many local residents. Improvement is, however, only one aspect of housing and the elimination of poor housing conditions must proceed alongside this work to achieve a balanced approach.

The Act came into force on the 25th August, 1969 and at the end of the year it was too soon to assess the longterm effect of the new provisions.

## CLEAN AIR ACTS, 1956 - 1968

A number of important sections of the Clean Air Act, 1968 came into force during the year. These included the prohibition, subject to certain exemptions, of emissions of black smoke from burning of waste of trade premises, improved control in connection with grit and dust emissions from boilers and extended control over chimney heights. Section 6 of the 1968 Act relating to chimney heights now extends to cover offices, shops and schools which were not formerly controlled, and approval is now independent of the submission of plans for building regulations. The maximum fine of £100 per day for the use of an unapproved chimney signifies the importance attached to the public health considerations of adequate chimney heights for the dispersal of pollutants.

The City Council has, as yet, no programme for control of smoke from domestic premises, which is now recognized as one of the most significant sources of smoke pollution. The present serious setbacks in domestic smoke control, arising from insufficient supplies of smokeless fuel, and other restrictions would prevent the City Council from proceeding with a smoke control programme if they so desired. It seems illogical that government policy on planned town development and expansion should not require smoke control in existing and new development, since clean air should be regarded as a corollary of expansion, so as not to perpetuate unnecessary pollution.

### 1. Dark and Black Smoke

(a)	Number of observations made	12
(b)	Number of contraventions recorded	-

### 2. Furnaces (Section 3)

(a)	Notifications received	1
(b)	Applications for prior approval	-

### 3. Height of Chimneys (Section 6) Clean Air Act, 1968

(a)	Number of applications	2
(b)	Number of cases in which alterations were required	2
(c)	Number approved	2
(d)	Number refused	-

## STORAGE OF PETROLEUM

Conditions have generally improved at installations licensed under the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936 throughout the district following inspections and letters to many licence holders, drawing attention to unsatisfactory arrangements. Thirty three licences including three new licences were issued in 1969 by the department to store petroleum spirit, and the total quantity authorised to be kept any any one time was 113,282 gallons. In addition, five licences authorising the keeping of petroleum mixtures were issued.



Several cases of unauthorised keeping of petroleum mixtures were found and one case of the keeping of carbide of calcium without a licence. Action by the department resulted in the discontinuance of storage or the provision of improved storage conditions and the issue of a licence as appropriate. Increased distribution costs and the discounts available for bulk deliveries are encouraging the replacement of old small tanks with larger tanks. Petrol is no longer stored in some cases so that the tank can be used for diesel fuel which is not subject to licensing control.

Seven licences lapsed during the year, involving a total storage capacity of over 6,000 gallons. One of these installations was withdrawn from use because of unsatisfactory storage arrangements within a building. The remaining installations were withdrawn voluntarily, and steps were taken to ensure that the disused tanks were removed, filled with inert material or cleaned and rendered vapour free for use for alternative storage purposes.

The Fire Prevention Officers of the Lichfield Division of the Staffordshire Fire Brigade willingly give help and advice on various matters connected with petroleum, and their assistance is much appreciated.

#### RATS AND MICE CONTROL

The work under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 carried out by the department is summarised in the table below:-

##### Properties other than sewers

1. Number of properties in district
2. a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification
- b. Number infested by (i) Rats  
                             (ii) Mice
3. a. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification
- b. Number infested by (i) Rats  
                             (ii) Mice

Type of Property	
Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
8,960	44
130	1
114	1
23	-
260	8
18	1
-	-

##### Sewers

4. Number of sewers infested by rats during the year.

Nil

The total number of infested premises was 157, compared with 88 in 1968, an increase of 78%. If this level of work continues or additional time is needed for other pest control work, the time allocated to the part-time rodent operative on this work will need to be increased.

Block surveys of premises continue in the City as an effective method of controlling and preventing damage by rats and mice. Permanent baiting has not yet been tried on any scale in the City, but this technique has been successfully used in several large urban areas and rural situations, with a very large reduction in the total number of rats in the treated area, and with a positive and significant reduction in the total number of premises found to be infested following complaint. Authorities operating this system have found a continuing reduction in complaints from year to year. Such a treatment system could be usefully considered for the City.

Warfarin continues as the principal poison used and, as far as can be ascertained, resistance is not yet a problem. Other alternative poisons including alphachloralase and coumatetralyl are used by the department to a lesser extent as circumstances require. It appears that substantial quantities of warfarin are sold by chemists in the City, and unless members of the public use this poison in the proper manner for infestations, ineffective control will result, which may also give rise to warfarin resistance.

Presumably many of the residents who treat infestations themselves are unaware of the service provided by this department, which includes free treatment for occupiers of domestic premises. In addition, these persons are not fulfilling their statutory obligation to report rat or mice infestations, irrespective of who carries out the treatment.

### Insect Pests

During the year many members of the public sought advice regarding the destruction of insect pests.

Assistance was given in the undermentioned cases:-

Bed bugs	2
Fleas	1
Cockroaches	1
Ants	20
Wasps	21
Flies	2
Silverfish	1
Plaster Beetles	4



## WATER SUPPLIES

With the exception of one small cottage on the outskirts of the City boundary, all premises are supplied by the statutory water undertakers, the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. The number of samples taken from the mains supply for bacteriological examination was 9 and all were reported as satisfactory. These samples are additional to those taken by the statutory undertakers.

Four samples were taken of the supply at the cottage. These samples were of variable quality, and a close supervision is being maintained of the purity of this land spring. The occupants continue, as a precaution, to boil water used for drinking purposes.

## PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH

Regular bacteriological samples are taken at the public swimming bath and during 1969, 24 were taken for this purpose. Whilst of an acceptable standard some samples are not of the highest standard possible.







